

Testimony to Human Services Committee, 03-10-2022

RE: SB 284

My name is Linda Bronstein. I am a resident of West Hartford, and I write to you in support of SB 284.

I am a social service professional, and I have worked for 27 years with refugees and other immigrants who have come to Connecticut in search of safety and a better life for their families.

I write to you today to express my strong support for SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS

Last year, the Connecticut General Assembly took a big step forward and expanded access to HUSKY insurance to all children living in Connecticut, regardless of immigration status, up to the age of 8. But children do not suddenly stop needing health care when they turn 9 years old. SB 284 will make HUSKY insurance available to all income-eligible children in the state of Connecticut.

Our future will be in the hands of those who are children and youth today. It is in everyone's interest to make it possible for children and youth to get the health care they need to be as healthy as possible, so that they can learn and grow without being dragged down by preventable health problems.

Health care – and health insurance – for children is necessary and right, but it is not all that is needed. Past experience with HUSKY insurance has shown that children are most likely to maintain health insurance and receive needed health care when their parents are also insured. And adults who do not have dependent children are also important members of our communities, and they need health insurance too. In the future, we must work to make HUSKY insurance available to all income-eligible adults as well as children.

SB 284 is the next step we need to take toward a stronger, healthier community. Please support SB 284.

Thank you for your time.

Linda Bronstein, West Hartford, CT